WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

BITTERROOT RIVER BASIN

MONTANA

as of

July 1, 1966

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE ★ SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Data included in this report were obtained in cooperation with other Federal, State and private organizations

The water supply continues to decline. The July through September flow of the Bitterroot River near Darby is forecast to be 57,000 acre feet, or about 55 percent of the 1948-62 average. The average flow is 104,000 acre feet. This forecast represents the third lowest flow in the past 30 years. Lower years were 1937 when the July-September flow was 39,750 acre feet and in 1940 when flow was 34,020 acre feet. In more recent years the 1961 flow was 63,010 acre feet; last year the flow was 146,330 acre feet.

Shortages of water will be quite extensive for the remainder of the irrigation season with only the older water rights and reservoir storage providing adequate supplies.

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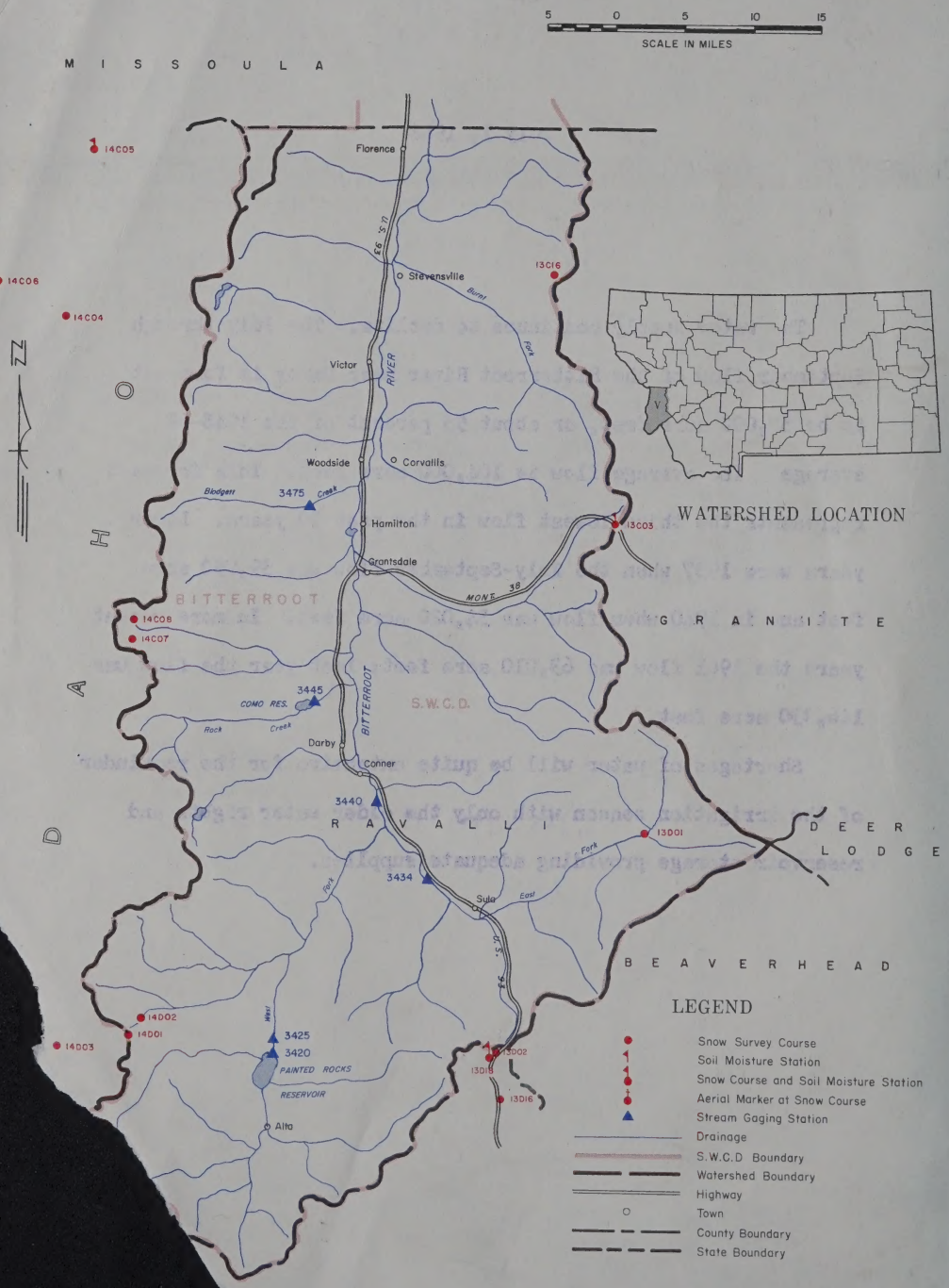
"The Conservation of Water begins with the Snow

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